



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

115 West Allen Avenue San Dimas, California 91773 (909) 971-8200 Fax (909) 971-8329

Superintendent

Carl Coles – Superintendent

Assistant Superintendents

Susan Cross Hume – Business Services

Kevin Lee, Ed.D. – Human Resources Development

Matthew Wien – Educational Services

Board of Education

Derek Bahmanou

Chuck Coyne

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March 20, 2020

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

In this time of rapidly evolving events, I am reaching out to provide updates based on new information from Governor Newsom and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Our schools will now remain closed until May 5, 2020. Please know that we don't have all of the answers yet, and change is occurring quickly. However, we are here for our community and working hard to communicate about the resources we are providing to our families and students.

While slowing the spread of COVID-19 remains our top safety priority, we understand the impact that these public health measures have on our families. With the new "Stay at Home" order issued by the Governor; even more families are now at home full time with children. For parents who are unable to work, access to food is even more of a challenge. Bonita Unified is committed to addressing the needs of our students throughout this extended dismissal period.

I'm incredibly proud of our school community for rising to the occasion in these challenging times. The calm, thoughtful display of the human spirit has brought our community closer even in this time of separation. Our teachers are busy planning for distance learning options while other members of our staff are providing over 900 meals daily to our neighborhood children. I truly appreciate the kindness and compassion of the BUSD family.

Here are some key updates:

School Dismissal Extended Until May 5

Our schools remain closed to students and non-essential employees until May 5. We will follow all directives from state and local authorities and will update you when there are changes that affect return dates.

Spring Break is March 23-27

As a reminder, our regularly scheduled Spring Break is next week. While the District Office and schools remain closed, we will still provide meal service to help fill the growing need for our community.

Meal Service Continues

Bonita Unified School District is offering free breakfast and lunch to children up to age 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Meals can be picked up on Monte Vista Avenue next to Chaparral High School, 121 W. Allen Ave., San Dimas. No sign-up or ID is required. A sack breakfast/lunch will be delivered to your car.

Starting on March 23rd, meals also will be distributed at Roynon Elementary, 2715 E. St., La Verne, CA 91750, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Employee Safety

While the Stay at Home orders do not include schools, Bonita Unified has asked essential personnel, including food services and payroll, to continue completing their duties on site in order for our operations to continue. When those employees are on site, we are encouraging them to follow social distancing guidelines.

Distance Learning Options in Development

During this time, our educators are working to provide learning opportunities for students during the extended school closure, in the form of both printed packets and online resources. As you can imagine, moving to a completely new platform and format is challenging, not just for teachers, but for parents who are now an even more crucial part of student learning.

As we iron out the details, please be assured of this: your children are foremost in our minds. Our goal remains to provide equitable service to all our students. At this time, remote learning remains an optional resource designed to minimize the learning gap and to keep our students engaged until we can return to full instruction.

Emotional Health and Well-Being

Despite the challenges we face from efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, there are many things we can do to ensure our physical and emotional well-being. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers [guidelines](#) for managing stress. Here are some basic practices:

- Social distancing, not social isolation: Connect with your loved ones and offer support and, when possible, assistance. Video chats, texting and audio calls can all help keep personal relationships strong and help us to maintain our perspectives and feel better.
- Guide your children: Remember, children take their cues for reacting to the world from you. Already, their routines have been disrupted. Watch for their distress, reassure them and set a calm environment by limiting news intake and creating consistent schedules.
- Exercise and eat well: We can continue to be active and go outside as long as we maintain social distance. Eat nutritious meals, sleep at least seven hours a night and maintain a consistent schedule.
- Limit news intake: It can be tempting to constantly track new information. Instead, take breaks from media coverage. Use a few, authoritative sources to check for updates. Be wary of misinformation on social media.

District Updates

We will provide updates to families as information changes or becomes available. Please check our [website](#), read emails from the District, and follow Bonita Unified on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish all of our students and their families good health. We will get through this together. We look forward to seeing 10,000 healthy, smiling faces back in our classrooms, gyms, and athletic fields.

Sincerely,



Carl J. Coles
Superintendent